

1 CLAIMS

2 1. An image acquisition system comprising:
3 a computer having a memory;
4 an imaging device coupled to the computer, the imaging device having a
5 device memory, the imaging device capturing a digital image and storing the
6 image on one of the computer memory or the device memory;
7 an image device manager executable on the computer to control operation
8 of the imaging device; and
9 a user interface with a context space and a persistently-visible imaging
10 menu positioned within the context space, the imaging menu listing options that
11 are particular to controlling the imaging device and managing images captured by
12 the imaging device.

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14 2. An image acquisition system as recited in claim 1, wherein the
15 imaging menu includes a capture option that directs the imaging device to capture
16 an image and to store the image in the memory of the computer.

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18 3. An image acquisition system as recited in claim 1, wherein the
19 context space lists image files stored on at least one of the device memory or the
20 computer memory.

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22 4. An image acquisition system as recited in claim 1, wherein:
23 the imaging device is a scanner; and
24 the context space presented by the user interface contains a preview scan
25 area that shows a preview of an image in the scanner.

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2 5. An image acquisition system as recited in claim 1, wherein :
3 the imaging device is a scanner; and
4 the context space presented by the user interface contains a scan area that is
5 initially empty prior to a time when the scanner scans an image and then
6 progressively displays the image as the scanner scans the image.

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8 6. An image acquisition system as recited in claim 1, wherein the
9 context space exhibits a play-in-place video file at a location, the play-in-place
10 video file being actuatable to play a video stream at the location in the context
11 space.

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13 7. An image acquisition system as recited in claim 1, further comprising
14 an operating system stored in the memory and executable on the computer, the
15 image device manager being incorporated into the operating system.

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17 8. An image acquisition system as recited in claim 1, further comprising
18 a browser stored in the memory and executable on the computer, the image device
19 manager being incorporated into the browser.

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21 9. In an image acquisition system having a computer and an imaging
22 device coupled to the computer, an image manager implemented in software
23 stored in the computer comprising:

24 a user interface presenting a context space of an imaging context and a
25 persistently-visible imaging menu positioned within the context space, the imaging

1 menu listing options that are particular to operating the imaging device and
2 managing image files; and

3 an image device driver to control operation of the imaging device in
4 response to selected options in the imaging menu.

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6 **10.** An image manager as recited in claim 9, wherein the imaging menu
7 includes a capture option to capture an image from the imaging device, and the
8 image device driver directs the imaging device to capture the image into an image
9 file for storage on the imaging device or the computer in response to selection of
10 the capture option.

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12 **11.** An image manager as recited in claim 9, wherein the context space
13 holds image files and the imaging menu includes an option to operate on one or
14 more of the image files.

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16 **12.** An image manager as recited in claim 9, wherein the context space
17 exhibits a play-in-place video file at a location, the play-in-place video file being
18 actuatable to play a video stream at the location in the context space.

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20 **13.** An image manager as recited in claim 9, wherein the imaging device
21 coupled to the computer is a scanner and the context space of the user interface
22 pertains to a scanner context and contains an area that is initially empty prior to a
23 time when the scanner scans an image and then progressively displays the image
24 as the scanner scans the image.

1 14. An operating system embodied on a computer readable medium
2 comprising an image manager as recited in claim 9.

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4 15. A file system embodied on a computer readable medium comprising
5 an image manager as recited in claim 9.

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7 16. A browser program embodied on a computer readable medium
8 comprising an image manager as recited in claim 9.

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10 17. A user interface embodied on a computer-readable medium and
11 executable on a computer comprising:

12 a file space of a selectable context, the file space exhibiting one or more
13 files and/or folders pertaining to the context; and

14 a persistently-visible context-specific menu positioned within the file space
15 adjacent to the files and/or folders, the context-specific menu listing options that
16 are particular to the context of the file space.

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18 18. A user interface as recited in claim 17, wherein the files comprise
19 digital image files and the folders comprise sets of digital image files.

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21 19. A user interface as recited in claim 17, wherein the context of the
22 file space pertains to imaging devices, and the options listed in the context-specific
23 menu include a command to capture digital images using an imaging device
24 coupled to the computer.

1 20. A user interface as recited in claim 17, wherein the file space also
2 exhibits a play-in-place video file at a location, the play-in-place video file being
3 actuatable to play a video stream at the location in the file space.
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5 21. A user interface as recited in claim 17, wherein the options in the
6 context-specific menu change in response to changing the context of the file space.
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8 22. A file system embodied on a computer-readable medium
9 incorporating the user interface as recited in claim 17.
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11 23. An operating system embodied on a computer-readable medium
12 incorporating the user interface as recited in claim 17.
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14 24. A browser embodied on a computer-readable medium incorporating
15 the user interface as recited in claim 17.
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17 25. For a computer-implemented scanning system having a scanner
18 coupled to a computer, a user interface comprising a graphical window having a
19 preview scan space, the preview scan space being initially empty prior to a time
20 when the scanner scans an image, the user interface progressively displaying the
21 image within the preview scan space to visually convey that the scanner is
22 scanning the image.
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1 26. A user interface as recited in claim 25, wherein the user interface
2 progressively displays the image row-by-row.

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4 27. A user interface as recited in claim 25, wherein the user interface
5 progressively displays the image currently with the scanner scanning the image.

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7 28. A user interface as recited in claim 25, further comprising a
8 persistently-visible menu positioned adjacent the preview scan space within the
9 graphical window, the menu containing options that are particular to operating the
10 scanner.

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12 29. A user interface as recited in claim 25, further comprising a
13 destination list that presents a user with choices on what to do with the scanned
14 image.

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16 30. A user interface as recited in claim 25, further comprising a control
17 to enable a user to select which portion of the image to scan in a final output.

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19 31. A file system embodied on a computer-readable medium
20 incorporating the user interface as recited in claim 25.

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22 32. An operating system embodied on a computer-readable medium
23 incorporating the user interface as recited in claim 25.

1 33. A browser embodied on a computer-readable medium incorporating
2 the user interface as recited in claim 25.

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4 34. For a computer-implemented scanning system having a scanner
5 coupled to a computer, a user interface embodied on a computer-readable medium
6 and executable on the computer comprising:

7 a graphical window having a preview scan space to hold a preview of the
8 image to be scanned by the scanner; and

9 a control to enable a user to select a portion of the image to be scanned by
10 the scanner.

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12 35. An operating system embodied on a computer-readable medium
13 incorporating the user interface as recited in claim 34.

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15 36. A browser embodied on a computer-readable medium incorporating
16 the user interface as recited in claim 34.

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18 37. An application program interface for an image acquisition system,
19 the application program interface being embodied on a computer-readable medium
20 and having methods for performing the following functions:

21 creating a device object for an imaging device;
22 displaying a user interface to enable a user to choose the device object;
23 displaying a user interface to enable the user to capture an image using the
24 imaging device; and
25 querying the imaging device for properties.

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2 38. An application program interface for an image acquisition system,
3 the application program interface being embodied on a computer-readable medium
4 and having methods for performing the following functions:

5 opening and closing a camera for communication;

6 controlling the camera; and

7 reading properties associated with the camera.

8 reading properties associated with pictures taken by the camera; and

9 manipulating pictures stored in a memory of the camera.
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11 39. An application program interface for an image acquisition system,
12 the application program interface being embodied on a computer-readable medium
13 and having methods for performing the following functions:

14 opening and closing a scanner for communication;

15 controlling the scanner; and

16 reading properties associated with the scanner.
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18 40. A computer-implemented method for execution in a graphical user
19 interface windowing environment, comprising the following steps:

20 presenting a set of one or more files and/or folders in a file space within a
21 graphical window;

22 presenting a persistently-visible, context-specific menu within the file space
23 adjacent to the files and/or folders; and

24 listing options in the context-specific menu that are particular to operating
25 on the files and/or folders in the file space.

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2 **41.** A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 40 wherein the
3 presenting step comprises the step of presenting a set of digital image files.

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5 **42.** A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 40 further
6 comprising the step of operating on the files and/or folders in response to selection
7 of an option in the context-specific menu.

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9 **43.** A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 40 further
10 comprising the step of exhibiting a play-in-place video file at a location in the file
11 space, the play-in-place video file being actuatable to play a video stream at the
12 location in the file space.

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14 **44.** A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 40 further
15 comprising the following steps:

16 presenting a new set of one or more files and/or folders in the file space;
17 and

18 listing new options in the context-specific menu that are particular to
19 operating on the new set of files and/or folders.

1 **45.** For a computer-implemented scanning system having a scanner
2 coupled to a computer, a computer-implemented method for executing a scanning
3 software application in a graphical user interface windowing environment,
4 comprising the following steps:

5 presenting a preview scan space within a graphical window, the preview
6 scan space being initially empty; and

7 progressively displaying an image within the preview scan space to visually
8 convey that the scanner is scanning the image.

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10 **46.** A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 45 wherein the
11 displaying step comprises the step of building the image row-by-row.

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13 **47.** A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 45 wherein the
14 displaying step comprises the step of building the image simultaneously as the
15 scanner scans the image.

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17 **48.** A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 45 further
18 comprising the following steps:

19 presenting a persistently-visible menu within the preview scan space within
20 the graphical window; and

21 listing options in the menu that are particular to operating the scanner.
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1 49. For a computer-implemented scanning system having a scanner
2 coupled to a computer, a computer-implemented method for executing a scanning
3 software application in a graphical user interface windowing environment,
4 comprising the following steps:

5 presenting a preview scan space to hold a preview of the image to be
6 scanned by the scanner; and

7 enabling a user to select a portion of the image to be scanned by the
8 scanner.

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